

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Non-Final Office Action of September 15, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the related art shown in Figure 3 in view of Takahashi (JP Pub. No. 05-249422). The rejection of the claims is traversed and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the related art shown in Figure 3 in view of Takahashi is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example "...a plurality of main seal patterns on the substrate, each main seal pattern being formed at a boundary of a corresponding unit cell region except for one unit cell region..." None of the cited references, including the related art illustrated in Figure 3 or Takahashi, singly or in combination, teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-7, which depend from claim 1, are also allowable over the cited references.

Claim 8 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 8 recites a combination of elements including, for example "...forming a plurality of main seal patterns on the substrate, each main seal pattern being disposed at a boundary of a corresponding unit cell region except for one unit cell region..." None of the cited references, including the related art illustrated in Figure 3 or Takahashi, singly or in combination, teach or suggest at least this

feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9-16, which depend from claim 8, are also allowable over the cited references.

Claim 17 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 17 recites a combination of elements including, for example "...a plurality of main seal patterns on the substrate, each main seal pattern being formed at a boundary of a corresponding one of the unit cell regions except for at least one middle unit cell region;... a first sub-seal pattern surrounding all of the main seal patterns and having a plurality of air vent portions; a plurality of additional seal patterns ...formed at a corresponding air vent portion..." None of the cited references, including the related art illustrated in Figure 3 or Takahashi, singly or in combination, teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-21, which depend from claim 17, are also allowable over the cited references.

Claim 22 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 22 recites a combination of elements including, for example "...forming a plurality of main seal patterns on the substrate, each main seal pattern being disposed at a boundary of a corresponding unit cell region except for one middle unit cell region; forming a first sub-seal pattern surrounding all of the main seal patterns and having a plurality of air vent portions; forming a plurality of additional seal patterns ...at each corresponding air vent portion..." None of the cited references, including the related art illustrated in Figure 3 or Takahashi, singly or in combination, teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, all the claim elements must be taught or suggested by the applied references at least when combined. See M.P.E.P. § 2143 and 2143.03.

In rejecting claims 1 and 8, the Examiner states the related art shown in Figure 3 "...does not disclose each main seal pattern being formed at a boundary of a corresponding unit region except for one unit cell region." The Examiner attempts to cure the deficiencies of the related art shown in Figure 3 by relying on Takahashi, stating "[Takahashi] discloses on figure 2 each main seal pattern 13 being formed at a boundary region of a corresponding unit cell region except for one unit cell region 13a."

Applicant respectfully submits Takahashi teaches, at paragraph [0026], wherein sealant 13 surrounds the liquid crystal enclosure field of each element partition (unit cell region), wherein the periphery sealant 14 surrounds all of the element partitions, and wherein the sealant 13 defines a liquid crystal inlet 13a. Further, and as can be readily seen in Figure 2 of Takahashi, each element partition is surrounded by the sealant 13, wherein a liquid crystal inlet 13a is defined by each sealant 13. Moreover, Figure 2 shows wherein all of the element partitions are surrounded by the periphery sealant 14.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits Takahashi fails to disclose "each main seal pattern 13 being formed at a boundary region of a corresponding unit cell region except for one unit cell region 13a," as asserted by the Examiner because the item designated at reference numeral 13a in Figure 2 of Takahashi is not a unit cell region. Rather, reference numeral 13a represents a liquid crystal inlet.

In rejecting claims 17 and 22, the Examiner cites the related art shown in Figure 3 as disclosing "a plurality of main seal patterns 21... a first subs seal pattern 31 surrounding all of the main seal patterns and having a plurality of air vent portions; a plurality of additional seal patterns 33... formed at a corresponding air vent portion; and a second sub seal pattern 33 having a plurality of open portions." The Examiner then states the related art shown in

Figure 3 "...does not disclose each main seal pattern being formed at a boundary of a corresponding unit region except for at least one middle unit cell region." The Examiner attempts to cure the deficiencies of the related art shown in Figure 3 by relying on Takahashi, stating "[Takahashi] discloses on figure 2 each main seal pattern 13 being formed at a boundary region of a corresponding unit cell region except for at least one middle unit cell region 13a."

Similar arguments presented above with respect to the use of Takahashi in the rejection of claims 1 and 8 are equally applicable with respect to the use of Takahashi in the rejection of claims 17 and 22.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits the related art shown in Figure 3 is completely silent as to any teaching or suggestion wherein a plurality of additional seal patterns (designated by the Examiner as corresponding to reference numeral 33) are formed at corresponding air vent portions (cited by the Examiner as being included within the first sub-seal pattern 31). From an examination of the related art shown in Figure 3, it appears as though the "additional seal patterns 33", as cited by the Examiner, are formed between the main seal pattern 21 and the "first subs seal pattern 31", as cited by the Examiner. However, after thoroughly examining the related art in Figure 3, Applicant respectfully submits no air vent portions are formed within the "first subs seal pattern 31" in locations corresponding to where the "additional seal patterns 33" are formed, as asserted by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits neither the related art shown in Figure 3 nor Takahashi, either singly or in combination, teach or suggest at least the aforementioned elements of the claimed inventions.

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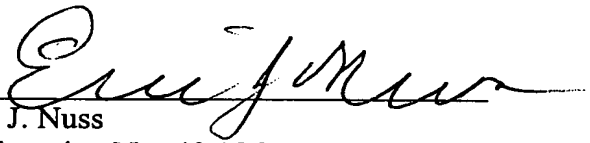
Applicant believes the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner deem that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

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